

Message Text

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10

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 IO-12 OMB-01 RSR-01 /124 W
----- 001498

P R 071324 Z MAY 73

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1926

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PBOR MI MOPS MZ

SUBJ: REPORTED CLASH BETWEEN PORTUGUESE AND MALAWI FORCES

REF: BLANTYRE 667

1. MOZAMBIQUE PRESS OF MAY 5 CARRIES COMMUNIQUE NO. 9/73
ISSUED BY MOZAMBIQUE ARMED FORCES HIGH COMMAND CATEGORICALLY
DENYING PRESS, RADIO AND INFORMATION AGENCY REPORTS THAT
PORTUGUESE ARMED FORCES HAD CROSSED BORDER WITH MALAWI AND CLASHED
WITH SECURITY FORCES OF THAT COUNTRY. COMMUNIQUE ADDS THAT
MILITARY RELATIONS BETWEEN MOZAMBIQUE AND MALAWI, INCLUDING
THOSE ALONG FRONTIERS, ARE ENTIRELY CORRECT, WITH STRICT
MUTUAL RESPECT FOR NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTIES.

2. " NOTICIAS DA BEIRA" OF MAY 5 (CONTROLLED BY JORGE JARDIM)
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ADDS FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT BY MALAWI CONSULATE IN MOZAMBIQUE
(JORGE JARDIM IS MALAWI HONORARY CONSUL): QUOTE WE ARE IN
CONTACT WITH BLANTYRE AND EVERYONE THERE DISCLAIMS ANY KNOW-
LEDGE OF SUCH INCIDENTS. WE ARE IN A POSITION TO AFFIRM THAT

THERE IS NO FOUNDATION WHATEVER TO THIS IRRESPONSIBLE NEWS. IT IS COMPLETELY FALSE. UNQUOTE. ARTICLE CONTINUES THAT TELEPHONE CONTACT WITH SOURCES IN MALAWI HAVE ESTABLISHED THAT LIFE IN BLANTYRE AND AT POINTS REPORTEDLY AFFECTED BY HYPOTHETICAL MILITARY CLASHES IS PROCEEDING NORMALLY. ARTICLE LAMENTS "SENSELESSNESS" BY RESPONSIBLE NEWS MEDIA WITH WHICH MALICIOUS RUMORS ARE SPREAD. ASSERTS ORIGINS OF SUCH RUMORS SHOULD BE SOUGHT OUT AND THOSE RESPONSIBLE PUNISHED, THUS AVOIDING FUTURE DISGRACEFUL ACTS OF THIS TYPE. ARTICLE CONCLUDES BY EXPRESSING CONFIDENCE IN PROMPT ACTION BY MALAWIAN ENTITIES INTERESTED, AS ALWAYS, IN PRESERVING EXISTING RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

3. ACCORDING TO "NOTICIAS DA BEIRA", THE ORIGINAL NEWS WAS BASED ON CABLE FROM "AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE", STEMMING FROM BLANTYRE, REPEATED BY SOUTH AFRICAN AND RHODESIAN NEWS AGENCIES, AND AMPLIFIED BY BROADCASTS FROM THOSE COUNTRIES AS WELL AS CERTAIN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. NOTHING WAS CARRIED OVER EITHER MOZAMBIQUE OR MALAWI RADIO, AND COMMANDING GENERAL KAULZA DE ARRIAGA AFFIRMED CATEGORICAL VERBAL DENIAL TO PRESS, AS WELL AS ISSUING ABOVE MENTIONED COMMUNIQUE.

4. COMMENT: EXTENT TO WHICH PORTUGUESE INTENTIONALLY OR OTHERWISE STRAY ACROSS MALAWI BORDERS IS WELL KEPT SECRET. CONGEN OFFICER ON TEMPORARY VISIT TO BLANTYRE LAST WEEKEND RECEIVED VARYING REPORTS FROM MEMBERS MALAWI ARMED FORCES, RANGING FROM ASSUMPTIONS OF NUMEROUS INCURSIONS TO EXPRESSIONS OF DOUBT THAT ANY SIGNIFICANT CROSSINGS OCCUR. SINCE BORDER IN MOST AREAS IS VERY POORLY DEFINED, AND SINCE THERE SEEMS TO BE LITTLE QUESTION THAT FRELIMO ELEMENTS CROSS THE BORDER IN BOTH DIRECTIONS PRETTY MUCH AT WILL, IT IS PROBABLE THAT MOZAMBIKAN ARMED FORCES, WITTINGLY OR UNWITTINGLY, OCCASIONALLY GO ACROSS IN HOT PURSUIT. IT IS EQUALLY PROBABLE THAT BOTH GOVERNMENTS OF MALAWI AND MOZAMBIQUE ARE ANXIOUS AVOID PUBLIC AIRING OF SUCH OCCURRENCES, AND TO KEEP OVERALL RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES ON PRESENT RELATIVELY EVEN KEEL.

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TAGS: PBOR MI MOPS MZ
To: STATE INFO BLANTYRE
CAPE TOWN
DAR ES SALAAM
LISBON
LONDON
LUSAKA
PRETORIA

Type: TE

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